News-Pages of the GSWC

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan, Inc. **25 June 2020**
To Accompany *Family History Capers* Vol. 43 #4

GSWC Meetings are usually held at 1:30 p.m. at the **Education Center Auditorium,** St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, Michigan, the fourth Sunday of the month, September to May (unless a holiday interferes). **Check our website: https://www.washtenawgenealogy.org or Facebook page for the latest location or virtual meeting information.**

Upcoming Meetings Fall 2020:
Sunday, September 27: "Britain to Canada to Michigan" presented by Jessica Trotter. **(Webinar)** This session looks at this popular migration pattern and explores resources available to researchers studying families who travelled these routes. **Class: "Productive Online Searches"** presented by Mary Henderson.

Sunday, October 25, 2020: "Scotch-Irish Research" presented by Derek Blount. **Class: "Webinars on Genealogy"** presented by TBD.

Sunday, November 22, 2020: "Dutch Research" presented by Megan Heyl. **Class: "Colorizing Black and White Digital Photographs"** presented by Mike Christiaens and Mike Gerding.

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Report on Recent Meetings:
April 26, 2020: The April 26 GSWC General Meeting was held as a virtual meeting. Our speaker was GSWC Treasurer, Mary Henderson, presenting **"Genealogy at Home during the COVID-19 Lockdown."** Her talk covered two major areas of research. The first she calls "The Big Three"—Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FamilySearch. These are all large database programs. Ancestry and MyHeritage are offered in library editions, temporarily accessible from home with a library card during the COVID-19 lockdown. For Ancestry, most functionality is present in the library version. However, family tree service is not available. FamilySearch can be accessed free from home, after a login account is created.

The second area covered was Local Library and Other Michigan Resources. The Ann Arbor District Library has online newspaper databases, as well as yearbooks and an obituary request service. The Chelsea and Ypsilanti libraries both have online vital records, and the latter also contains the A. P. Marshall African American Oral History and Michigan History Magazine online. These library resources can be accessed without a library card. Other Michigan resources available online include Archives of Michigan digital collections at michiganology.org, the Burton Historical Collection, Bentley Historical Library collections, Washtenaw County vital records, and the GSWC Family History Capers name index.

Reported by Tim Salatin

May 17, 2020: Marcia McCrary spoke about **"Early Breweries in Ypsilanti: Applying Genealogical Research Techniques to Any Topic"**. She shared some of the items she used to create the speech she first gave in October of 2019 at the Ypsilanti Historical Society Quarterly Meeting. These included: census, Sanborn Fire Maps, Google, and cemetery listings. At the Ypsilanti Archives she found city directories, newspaper articles, pictures, and obituaries. One source she highlighted was the *Family History Capers* name index, which is found on the washtenawgenealogy.org website, under the button "Washtenaw Research". At this point there are more than 126,000 names in this database. Searching for one of the four brewers, A. J. Leetch, she found an article about Episcopalian firefighters, written by Marcia McCrary!

She thanked Jan Anscheutz for the articles in the Ypsilanti Historical Society Gleanings, and other research she had done. Jan has written a series of articles about the people around River Street, and how instrumental they were in Ypsilanti.

Marcia showed a picture of the beer bottles from Ypsilanti which GSWC member Earnie Griffin brought to the talk in October.

She shared an 1874 Sanborn Fire Map of Ypsilanti which showed the location of four of the breweries:
·Jacob F. Grobe at 5 Forest (1861–1915) just west of the Forest Street bridge.

Jacob Grobe (or sometimes spelled Grob) was born in Württemberg, Germany in 1839, came first to Monroe, Michigan in 1851, then to Ypsilanti in 1861 where he married Sophie Post. He also operated the first icehouse in the immediate area, beginning in 1864. He died in 1921 and is buried at Highland Cemetery.

·Andrew F. Leetch whose Eagle Brewery (1866–1876) was on East Congress Street (now Michigan Avenue) just east of the bridge.

He was born in Ontario, Canada in 1830, came first to Canton, then married Lois V. Voorhees, and worked at a grocery store in Ypsilanti, as well as being a city firefighter. He died in 1892 and is buried at Highland Cemetery.

·Frederick G. Swain at Forest and River Streets (1872–1890s).

He was born in England, and his family had been brewers there for many years. (A side note, Jan Anscheutz tells me she has records of the brewing company in England before 1850.) He married Eliza "Lizzie" George whose father owned a malt business on Forest Street in Ypsilanti. They had two daughters, Jessie and Florence who were noted for taking care of the beautiful flower gardens around the Ypsilanti Train Depot. Frederick died in 1897 and is buried in Highland Cemetery.

·L. Z. Foerster (1870–1914) originally at Grove Street and Prospect, moved to 414 S. Grove by 1888. His brewery had a succession of names: Louis Z. Foerster, Hoch Brewing, Liberty Brewing, Ypsilanti Brewing, Chris. Vogt Ypsilanti Brewing, and Dawes Brewing.

Louis J. Foerster was born in Waterloo, Ontario in 1836, and married Margaret/Augusta Loeffler. They had a son Jacob. Louis then married Rosanna Smith in 1865, and they had 6 children. He died in 1921 and was buried in Highland Cemetery.

At the Ypsilanti Historical Society Quarterly meeting in 2019 three local breweries provided beer for tasting. The people "attending" the May 17 speech had to provide their own refreshments!

Reported by Marcia McCrary

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GSWC Items:

We appreciate everyone staying with us. For the health of all, our upcoming meeting(s) will be held virtually until it is safe to meet in person. The Board will further discuss use of virtual meetings at its July 15 meeting.

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The next **GSWC Board Meeting** is July 15, 2020, which will be a virtual meeting on Zoom. For more information on the agenda and how to attend contact info@washtenawgenealogy.org .

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The next meeting of the **DNA Special Interest Group** has not yet been set, perhaps it will be a Zoom meeting. Contact GSWC member Rodger Wolf at rawolf@umich.edu if you are not on their mailing list.

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After the **Annual Meeting** on Sunday, May 17, 2020, the following people were elected by an email vote:

President: Nancy Howard

First Vice President: _____

Corresponding Secretary: Rob Steward

At-Large Board Members (Increasing the number by one): Rebecca Carver, Cheryl Garnett, Mike Gerding and Tim Salatin.

Next Year's **Nominating Committee**: Sharon Heminger, Linda Williams and Marcia McCrary

The Board and the Program/Education Committee are working on filling the 1st VP position.

Thank you to all who voted, and to those who have contributed so much to the Society over the past years and especially to retiring officers: Marcia McCrary, who served as president for 26 years, Carolyn Griffin who was our Education Chair for 37 years, Tim Salatin GSWC 1st VP for 6 years and Royla Furniss our Membership Chair for 7 years and At Large Board Member for 5 years.

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